

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

SPIRITUAL SWINDLE BEFORE LONDON COURT

Remarkable Case of Man Sending Postal Orders for Rescue Work Among Spirits Surprises Barristers.
Headless Postman Carried Spirit Mails.

London, May 25.—"I am unable to recall any more remarkable case having been tried at the Central Criminal Court," said Mr. Bodkin today, in opening the prosecution against Mr. and Mrs. Iard, who are accused of obtaining money from Thomas Syme on the pretext of sending it to inhabitants of the "spirit world."

The case arose out of the bankruptcy of Syme, who was a solicitor with a large practice in London and Manchester. In the course of the investigation it was found that he had misappropriated \$3,000 received on behalf of a Mrs. Burgess. He pleaded guilty in Central Criminal Court, and in view of the statements made by him sentence was postponed, while criminal proceedings were opened against Mr. and Mrs. Iard.

Some years ago, Mr. Bodkin explained, Syme seemed to have formed a deep attachment for a lady who died in 1896, and having deluded to some extent in spiritualism, he seemed to have conceived the idea that he could continue to communicate with her after her death.

He became acquainted with Mrs. Iard, who promised to do her best to put him in touch with his friend, who was known throughout the business as "M. L. O." (My Loved One). Mrs. Iard represented that she communicated with the other world through a "Dr. R." and a "Dr. W."

"M. L. O." for "M. L. O." In each of the years 1907-8 more than 100 seances were held, at a fee of \$1.25 per seance, and in course of time messages from "M. L. O." delighted the heart of Syme.

His letters to the spirit world were addressed to "Dr. R. care of Mrs. Iard," yet, to show how remarkable was his character, he kept a press copy of practically every letter that he wrote.

"Between this earth and the unseen

world," said Mr. Bodkin, "a regular postman was employed—Lauren, a Frenchman, who lost his head during the French revolution. This postman took the letters to the spirit world, dematerialized them to make them invisible, and rematerialized them again when they reached the other world."

"Then Syme was told that the spirits were conducting a 'Rescue Society' for people who had been undesirable members of society in this life, and to aid the funds of this society, Syme sent scores of postal orders for \$5 each to be transmitted to the other world."

Kept Up Rescue Work. "Syme" business began to fall; yet he was saturated with the belief that he must send money for the rescue work, which would stop with his donations.

"In the course of a spirit letter he said that the dock and cell were his future if he could not repay the money he was trying to satisfy the demands of the spirits."

"One must be kind and charitable," said Mr. Bodkin, "to a man under these circumstances, notwithstanding his self-confessed dishonesty in regard to his clients. There are a great many people who believe that through the wonderful sympathy between brain and brain, there may be, even after death, some sort of communication. That may be true spiritualism. The question in this case is: Is not this using the subject of spiritualism for the sole purpose of a vulgar swindle, easily carried out upon a man who is ready to believe anything connected with spiritualism for the purpose of arriving at a communication with the woman he had loved?"

Mr. Bodkin called Mr. Syme, but the court adjourned before he entered the witness box.

LONDON HOSPITAL MAKES SERUM TESTS

Man with Lockjaw Takes Treatment to Determine Worth of Anti-tetanic Fluid.

London, May 25.—The actual worth of anti-tetanic serum as a cure for lockjaw in man is being put to a severe test on a patient in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

A fortnight ago the patient, a London foundry hand, fell off a tramway car and sustained a slight abrasion of the thumb. The wound healed, but about ten days later he began to experience pains about the neck and stiffness of the jaws. When admitted to the hospital he had great difficulty in swallowing and the muscles of the body and limbs were constantly being thrown into spasms typical of the disease.

On Saturday, about an ounce of anti-tetanic serum was injected under the skin, with apparently little effect. On Monday the tip of a carefully sterilized hollow needle was inserted into the spinal canal through the soft tissues separating the vertebrae and about two test-

spoonfuls of the serum injected. On the following day a slight remission of the symptoms was noted, but it was thought best to remove a portion of the soft tissues of the thumb at the place of the original wound. At the same time a second and larger dose of the serum was injected into the patient's spinal canal.

"We have made this final effort to get the better of the disease by use of the serum so as to save, if possible, the man's thumb," one of the hospital staff explained.

BEAT OLD WOMAN TO "CAST OUT DEVIL"

London, May 25.—A case of "casting out the devil" from an old woman is reported from the Swiss village of Noirmont, near Geneva.

The peasants of the village, whose cattle had become ill, accused an old woman, living alone, of possessing the evil eye and casting spells on the cattle. She pleaded innocence in vain, and the credulous peasants appointed a delegate to cast out the devil from her.

This man met the old woman and thrashed her severely. He has been tried and sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and ordered to pay \$50 indemnity to the old woman and \$5 costs.

BELGIUM ROADS PROFILES

Authority Condemns State Ownership of Railways in Report.

Brussels, May 25.—Col. H. A. York's report on the construction and working of light railways in Belgium contains material for a strong indictment of State ownership.

"The dominant factor," he says, "is the question of finance, and it is here that the greatest difficulty would arise."

"Even in Belgium, the average dividend of all the light railways is to-day only 2.5 per cent, and is steadily decreasing. Many lines pay nothing and the dividend is obtained by setting the receipts from the prosperous lines against the losses on the nonpaying lines."

"Such a dividend is, therefore, only possible when all the lines are in the same hands, and even then it is not sufficient to attract the investor. In England the experience has been much the same, though on a much smaller scale."

DUELING IN IRELAND

Fighting Flourished in Emerald Isle in Days of Lord Squires.

Berlin, May 25.—The controversy centered in the duel in Germany recalls how dueling flourished among the Irish squirearchy of the past. It was the story of the Galway gentleman who was seen practicing with the pistol in his back garden. His explanation was, "I've a dinner party of friends this evening and I am getting my pistol hand in practice."

One recalls, too, Mr. MacDonagh's note of a dying squire's last words of advice to his son, "God bless you, my boy," he said, "I leave you nothing but debts and mortgages, but I'll give you one piece of advice—never drink with your back to the fire and never fight a duel with your face to the sun."

SCANDAL OVER BELGIUM QUEEN

Peruvians Engage in Mine-bout Encounter After Insult Is Passed.

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As early as the second bout Senior Garcia Calderon received a thrust in the forearm, and he fared no better in the third. Both injuries being slight, however, it was decided that the fight could continue.

Nothing particular happened in the three following encounters, but on the next Garcia Calderon scored an advantage. He wounded his adversary, and there was a rather long pause while the doctors who had been invited to be present watched the case.

Iglesias Is Disabled. The English militant suffragist leader, who has just been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment on the charge of conspiracy and inciting her followers to malicious damage of property, Mrs. Pankhurst was arrested as a result of the window smashing crusade of the London suffragettes several weeks ago.

CHAUFFEUR SHOT BY TAXI OCCUPANT

John Stewart Attacked in Lonely Road by Man in Vehicle—Was Former Soldier.

London, May 25.—A mysterious shooting outrage, the victim of which was a taxi driver, who was shot by his "fare," occurred early this morning near Stockport.

Shortly before 5 o'clock in the morning a man staggered into the engine house at Frobbery Colliery and gasped: "I've been shot; I'm dying." A drink of water was given to him, and he then stated his name as John Stewart, and that he was employed as a taxi driver by the Manchester Motor Hiring Company. He picked up a fare, he said, at Manchester, and was told to drive to Stockport, eight miles distant.

On reaching a lonely country lane, the fare, who appeared to be ill, asked him to stop the car and get a fern out of the hedge, and he was not to be forced into the rear ranks by the self-sacrifice and energy of other nations. If any where the cry must here always be, "Germany to the front!" It is not vain ambition which demands that from us it is here a question of upholding our fame as the first masters of applied science, of creating values which shall assure to us Germany a place of honor in the history of all times.

To Perfect Science.

The only indication of the manner in which the money collected is to be spent is as follows: "Above all, the national fund shall supply means for ceaseless progress toward the perfection of flying apparatus and for the training of aviators, that the day when our flying machines shall be able to be worked in Germany."

TELLS OF FINDINGS IN SOUTH AMERICA

A. H. Savage Lander Returns to London from Trip Through Unexplored Sections of Brazil.

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"My journey included the whole of the unexplored part of Brazil between Rio and Manaus, in the great central basin of the Zingu, Tapajós, and Madeira Rivers, a region which the Brazilians themselves have always regarded as impenetrable."

"After crossing Brazil, I went over the Andes through Peru, to Lima, thence to Cuzco and Lake Titicaca, to examine the Inca ruins. Next I went across Bolivia and Chile to Antofagasta. From this point to Valparaiso, by steamer, and once more across South America to Buenos Ayres."

Mr. Lander stated that he studied several new tribes, made vocabularies of their language, and made some interesting geological, geographical, and anthropological observations.

Even when traveling in unexplored regions he met with no hostility on the part of natives, and declares with pride that he did not even carry a revolver or knife with him.

His journey route over unexplored or little-known country in Brazil covered about 5,000 miles, and the Brazilian government is so astonished at the success of his expedition that it has granted him a grant of \$20,000 to the explorer.

The expedition suffered a good deal from insects of all kinds, particularly mosquitoes, ants, the tiny pin, a species of gnats, which makes life almost unbearable, and from millions of bees, which, although they do not sting, swarm over every uncovered portion of the body.

Mr. Lander added that this was the last of his twenty-five years' exploring.

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Berlin Newspaper Urges Increase in Kaiser's Naval Strength.

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PHYSICIAN VICTIM OF DARING THIEVES

Liverpool Doctor Lured to Vacant House and Attacked with Poker by Robbers.

London, May 25.—Dr. Marshall J. Campbell, a Liverpool doctor, was the victim of a remarkable outrage last night. About 9 o'clock a boy called at his house and asked him to go to a woman who was seriously ill in a house not many minutes' walk away. The doctor went to the house, which was in darkness and apparently empty, and knocked at the door.

The door was opened by a man of the working class type, who invited the doctor to step in while he struck a light. The doctor crossed the threshold, and was immediately attacked from behind, blow after blow being rained on his head with a poker.

The sick man who was waiting saved the doctor from the earlier blows, but he was soon unconscious with several severe wounds on the head.

As he sank into unconsciousness he saw a man rush by him into the street. A moment later some men who were passing came in and took him home.

There was no doubt that the doctor was lured to the house in order that he might be robbed. Dr. Campbell, who is an elderly man, wears two very valuable diamond rings and a gold watch. They were not taken, the robber having evidently been surprised by the doctor's resistance.

Police who visited the house afterward found it empty. There was no patient and no nurse. The assailant's blood-stained poker was in the passage.

A man of twenty and a boy were arrested yesterday afternoon in connection with the outrage, and will be brought before the magistrate Monday.

Dr. Campbell is progressing favorably.

CAT GUARDS BODY OF DEAD MISTRESS

London, May 25.—A cat's devotion to its dead mistress was described at an inquest at Chelsea yesterday on Mrs. Sarah Ann Turnro, aged seventy, widow of an artist, of Gertrude Street, Chelsea.

Mrs. Charlotte Griffiths testified that Mrs. Turnro occupied half of her house. "On Saturday morning," she said, "my little boy took up a cup of tea, when a cat, which was sitting on Mrs. Turnro's shoulder, flew at him and knocked the cup out of his hand. When he came down and told what had happened a servant went up and found Mrs. Turnro dead in bed."

"She appeared to be asleep," said the boy, "and when I touched her the cat flew at me."

Death was stated to be due to natural causes, and a verdict was returned accordingly.

"We some times hear of a dog protecting a body," remarked the coroner, "but this is the first time I have heard of a cat doing so."

MUST NOT COME WITHIN FIFTEEN MILES OF WOMAN

English Court Orders Former Lover to Keep Distance He Agreed to Maintain in Settlement of Divorce Suit, and to Pay \$15,000.

London, May 25.—An agreement by which a wife's former lover was prohibited from coming within ten miles of her was enforced to-day in Justice Eve's court.

At the same time, the man in question was ordered to pay \$15,000, which he had agreed to forfeit if he broke his undertaking.

In March, 1911, Henry Charles Upton, of Frying, Foley, Rogate, Hampshire, filed a petition for divorce against his wife, Ellen Berenice Upton, citing as cause of divorce her adultery with a correspondent Malcolin Margrave Henderson, who then lived at the Wilds, Liss, within ten miles of Frying, Foley.

There were negotiations, as a result of which Upton consented to forgive his wife and take her back to live with him.

A condition was that Henderson should bind himself by deed not, for fifteen years, to come within ten miles of the Frying, Foley mansion house, provided that it remained in Mr. Upton's possession.

The deed also appointed trustees, who

PAYING THE PENALTY

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GERMANY ESTABLISHES NATIONAL FLYING FUND

Backward in Aviation, the Fatherland Seeks Through the Press to Obtain Contributions Toward Building Air Fleet.

Berlin, May 25.—Only a few years have passed since the day when the Kaiser, with his usual impetuosity pronounced old Count Zeppelin, the greatest man of the century, because he felt convinced that the inventor of the first dirigible airship had won for Germany the indisputable supremacy of the air, which forever must put an end to all French dreams of revenge. That the Kaiser's dream has been no more lasting than dreams ordinarily are is acknowledged in a manifesto exhorting all classes of the population to contribute to a "national flying fund," which is printed every day with great prominence in practically the entire German press.

The first of the signatories to the opening of the aviation exhibition announced that the inauguration of such a fund was in contemplation. The chairman of the committee is Count Posadowsky, ex-Minister of the Interior, whose character and attainments stand higher in the popular esteem than those of any other man in political life. Among the members of the committee are leaders in all walks of national activity.

The manifesto opens with the following words: "With pride we Germans can name the man who first realized the longed-for centuries—Zeppelin. The tremendous development which the navigation of the air has experienced since the introduction of flying machines compels us, however, to put forward the most strenuous efforts if we are not to be forced into the rear ranks by the self-sacrifice and energy of other nations. If anywhere the cry must here always be, 'Germany to the front!' It is not vain ambition which demands that from us it is here a question of upholding our fame as the first masters of applied science, of creating values which shall assure to us Germany a place of honor in the history of all times."